



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Road Division

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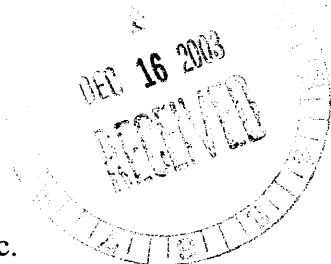
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December 4, 2003

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20423

Attention: Dave Navecky, Environmental Concerns

SUBJECT: STB Finance Docket No. 34305, Environmental Assessment
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company
Construction and Operation of a new rail line to Quebecor World Inc.



Dear Mr. Navecky:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of a new rail line to Quebecor World, Inc., located between Santa Fe Road and Cooper Avenue, in the City of Merced. Since this project will affect traffic on Santa Fe Road, which is a County roadway, west of Black Rascal Creek, we are quite interested in your project. Although the Black Rascal Creek Alternative alignment would directly impact our roadway, we note that the Proposed Alignment indicated on Figure 3 will limit all of the construction east of Black Rascal Creek, entirely within the jurisdiction of the City of Merced. We do not have any environmental concerns with the proposed project; however, if any work is to take place within Merced County right-of-way, it will need to be authorized by means of an Encroachment Permit issued through our department.

On September 29, 2003 you contact the Merced City Manager, Jim Marshall, about possibly closing off Santa Fe Road. We are quite receptive to this proposal. Although there is a substantial amount of industrial-zoned property located along Santa Fe Road, west of Black Rascal Creek, we do not expect that SR59 will be their primary access. We only require that an eastbound turnaround, designed to County standards, be constructed adjacent to Black Rascal Creek, for thereby terminating the County's portion of the roadway; and that sufficient right-of-way be acquired and dedicated to the County to contain said turnaround.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lyon
Senior Engineering Associate

SEL:jag

cc: Larry Naeger, Director Sales Industrial Products, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P.O. Box 961065, Fort Worth, Texas, 76161-0065

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